



ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Collaboration as the Basis of Learning and Development for Individuals and Teams

Are you planning what's next for you in your career? Are you interested in increasing your network of peers? Do you wonder if NASA and industry PM jobs are similar? Come hear how some of NASA's most promising leaders leveraged the Program/Project Management Development Program (PPMD). The most frequently quoted benefits of PPMD are the opportunity to network and collaborate across NASA and the opportunity to learn from industry. This session will focus on lessons learned from participants and the JSC PPMD manager on how collaboration serves as the basis for much learning and development. The PPMD pilot class hosted by JSC included participants from four centers, forged new relationships with the Universities Space Research Association, Georgia Tech University, and General Electric and included instruction from individuals representing over 50 organizations. PPMD was designed to emphasize individualized development enabling participants to tailor mentoring, work assignments, and other training to their goals and needs. Content was customized in response to recommendations from participants and senior management based on their needs and the vision for future NASA programs and projects. Periodic group sessions and team project assignments served as a framework for collaboration strengthening relationships among participants. Knowledge sharing was emphasized and collaboration continued through panels of former NASA executives, industry speakers and Georgia Tech faculty. Participants in the PPMD program will readily share how they leveraged the resources available to them in PPMD to increase their network of professionals, collaborate across the aerospace community, and further their career. You don't need to participate in a development program to apply these lessons learned to your career. Many of the lessons are individualized and may also be implemented by Project Managers and leaders on behalf of their teams.

Kelly Elliott
Deputy Manager, HR Development
NASA Johnson Space Center

Ms. Elliott is the Deputy Manager for Human Resources Development at the Johnson Space Center. As part of this role, Ms. Elliott oversees the creation and management of development programs to prepare the JSC workforce for its future roles in support of the Vision for Space Exploration. She has been managing the Program/Project Management Development Effort (PPMD) since its inception in March 2006.

Ms. Elliott joined NASA in the spring of 2005 as a Human Resources Development Representative providing individual and organizational support to JSC Directorates and Programs. Prior to joining NASA she served as an Account Manager for Mercer Human Resources Services. She has also worked as a product manager designing workforce



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development technology and an independent consultant specializing in change management.

Ms. Elliott is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has an MBA from University of Houston – Clear Lake. She was recently awarded the Silver Snoopy Award for her efforts with the PPMD Program.

Bruce Sauser
Deputy Chief, Crew and Thermal Systems Division
NASA Johnson Space Center

Bruce W. Sauser joined the Crew and Thermal Systems Division of the Engineering Directorate in 2006 after three years in the Space Shuttle Program Orbiter Project Office and seventeen years in the Engineering Directorate. He serves as Deputy Chief for the Crew and Thermal Systems Division. The Division is responsible for developing new technologies and flight systems for Environmental Control/Life Support Systems (ECLSS), Active Thermal Control Systems (ATCS), Extravehicular Activity (EVA) equipment, Intravehicular Activity (IVA) equipment, and Space Suit Systems. In addition to this the Division provides test capability in both vacuum and thermal/vacuum environments, including human-rated facilities.

During the progression of his career from engineer, project engineer, group lead, subsystem manager, deputy branch chief, branch chief, office manager, and deputy division chief, Mr. Sauser has been responsible for Critical Space Flight hardware and subsystems. He played significant roles in both of NASA's major Return-to-Flight (RTF) efforts for STS-26 and STS-114. During the RTF of STS-26, he was responsible for the development and certification of the Crew Escape System. For STS-114 he was the office manager for four RTF projects, the Orbiter Boom Sensor System, Wing Leading Edge Sensor System, ET Umbilical Camera, and EVA Handheld Digital Camera. Mr. Sauser was one of the original authors for the Engineering Work Instruction for Project management (EA-WI-023) and an instructor for the Lockheed Project Management training class. He holds a BS in engineering from Texas A&M University.

Anita Liang
Deputy Director of the Facilities and Test Directorate
NASA Glenn Research Center

Anita D. Liang serves as Deputy Director of the Facilities and Test Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field. She has been a member of the U. S. government's Senior Executive Service (SES) since November 2002. Her government career spans 18 years. In her current capacity, Ms. Liang assists the Director with all aspects of planning, organizing, coordinating, and evaluating new Facilities and Test Directorate's work. The



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Directorate is staffed by approximately 300 civil service architectural, engineering, technical and administrative personnel, complemented by approximately 300 support contractors. Anita directs the management of Glenn's test facilities' operation, including flight assets, at Lewis Field. She also oversees maintenance and assessment of the Center's facilities, infrastructure, and test and evaluation technical services in support of its research and development programs and business activities.

In the position of Associate Director for Aeronautics, Ms. Liang served as the Center's point of contact for developing the overall Aeronautics program strategy and providing guidance and direction on program implementation, execution and external partnerships in collaboration with the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate and other NASA Aeronautics Centers. In the position of Chief of the Aeropropulsion Project Office, Ms. Liang is responsible for the management, execution and implementation of all projects at Glenn related to aeropropulsion advancements for future propulsion and power systems. Ms. Liang also served as Glenn's focal point for the integration and coordination of all aerospace fuel cell efforts. In this role, she was responsible for the planning, advocacy and communication of the Center's aerospace fuel cell activities, addressing U.S. energy security and efficiency challenges. She served on the board of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition (2004) and on the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy Hydrogen Task Force (2003 - 2006).